

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1           1. (currently amended) A voice portal hosting system,  
2 intended to be connected to a first voice telecommunication  
3 network in order for a plurality of users in said network to  
4 establish a connection with said system using voice equipment,  
5 said system comprising:

6           a memory in which a plurality of interactive voice  
7           response applications providing interactive voice  
8           response functionality is stored, each of said  
9           applications including an executable component for  
10          execution by said hosting system;

11          a common speech recognition module;  
12          means for storing a plurality of user-specific speech  
13          models adapted to specific users for use by the  
14          common speech recognition module;

15          a user identification module for identifying a user;  
16          means for retrieving the user-specific speech model of  
17          the identified user from said plurality of models;

18          and

19          uploading means for independently uploading said  
20          plurality of interactive voice response  
21          applications, to said system, through a second  
22          ~~telecommunication network~~ by a plurality of  
23          independent value-added service providers, wherein  
24          the identified user interacts with one or more of said  
25          interactive voice response applications, and wherein  
26          said one or more interactive voice response applications  
27          utilize said retrieved user-specific speech model

28           via said common speech recognition module for  
29           recognizing speech of the identified user.  
30       ~~at least a plurality of said interactive voice response~~  
31           ~~applications use a common speech recognition module,~~  
32           ~~which includes user specific speech models, for~~  
33           ~~executing on said system, and further wherein~~  
34       ~~said system is adapted to execute one or more of said~~  
35       ~~voice response applications when one of said users~~  
36       ~~calls said system.~~

1           2. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim 1,  
2       wherein said common speech recognition module comprises a  
3       common user profile database.

1           3. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim 2,  
2       wherein said common user profile database includes user  
3       preferences.

1           4. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim 3,  
2       wherein said user preferences include a delivery address for  
3       goods and/or services ordered with said value-added service  
4       providers.

1           5. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim 3,  
2       wherein said user preferences include a billing address and/or  
3       preferences for goods and services ordered with said value-  
4       added service providers.

1           6. (canceled).

1           7. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim 6,  
2       comprising means for adapting said common speech models

3 associated to a user during each dialogue between said user  
4 and each of said interactive voice response applications.

1 8. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim 7,  
2 wherein said means for adapting said common speech models uses  
3 recorded users' speech samples for adapting said common speech  
4 models off-line.

1 9. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim 1,  
2 wherein said common speech recognition module uses Hidden  
3 Markov Models, and further comprising a Hidden Markov Models  
4 adaptation module for adapting said models to said user.

1 10. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim  
2 9, wherein said Hidden Markov Models adaptation module allows  
3 for an incremental adaptation of said models.

1 11. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim  
2 1, wherein said common speech recognition module uses user-  
3 specific language models.

1 12. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim  
2 11, comprising means for adapting said common language models  
3 associated to a user during each dialogue between said user  
4 and each of said interactive voice response applications.

1 13. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim  
2 1, wherein said common speech recognition module uses  
3 selections previously made by said users.

1 14. (previously presented) The voice portal hosting  
2 system of claim 13, wherein said selections previously made by

3 said users are stored in said voice portal hosting system for  
4 improving the arborescence of the menus.

1 15. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim  
2 1, wherein at least a plurality of said interactive voice  
3 response applications use a common user identification module  
4 run on said system.

1 16. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim  
2 15, wherein said user identification module uses an  
3 identification of the equipment used by said user in said  
4 first telecommunication network.

1 17. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim  
2 16, being operated by a telecom operator of said first  
3 telecommunication network, wherein said user identification  
4 module uses an identification of the equipment used by said  
5 user in said first telecommunication network even when said  
6 identification is not available for the other B-subscribers of  
7 said first telecommunication network.

1 18. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim  
2 15, wherein said user identification module uses a voice-based  
3 user identification module.

1 19. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim  
2 15, wherein said common speech recognition module uses a  
3 speaker-dependant speech recognition algorithm, wherein said  
4 speaker is identified by said common user identification  
5 module.

1 20. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim  
2 1, wherein at least a plurality of said interactive voice

3 response applications use a common billing module and a common  
4 clearing center for dispatching the collected amounts to said  
5 value-added service providers.

1 21. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim  
2 20, wherein said common billing module allows for the billing  
3 of transactions between said users and said value-added  
4 service providers on a common bill prepared by the operator of  
5 said voice portal hosting system.

1 22. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim  
2 20, wherein at least a plurality of said users have a deposit  
3 account on said voice portal hosting system which can be used  
4 for transactions with a plurality of said value-added service  
5 providers.

1 23. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim  
2 1, wherein at least a plurality of said interactive voice  
3 response applications use a user authentication module based  
4 on an electronic signature and/or on biometric parameters of  
5 said users.

1 24. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim  
2 1, wherein said second telecommunication network is a TCP/IP  
3 network.

1 25. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim  
2 24, wherein at least some of said interactive voice response  
3 applications are described with Voice extensible Markup  
4 Language documents.

1           26. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim  
2 25, wherein a compilation module run on said system compiles  
3 said interactive voice response applications.

1           27. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim  
2 1, wherein at least one free interactive voice response  
3 application is made available by the operator of said system.

1           28. (original) The voice portal hosting system of claim  
2 27, wherein said free interactive voice response application  
3 includes a free directory assistance service.

1           29. (canceled).

1           30. (currently amended) A method for allowing each of a  
2 plurality of value-added service providers to set up an  
3 interactive voice response application including an executable  
4 component for execution by a voice portal hosting system  
5 commonly used by said plurality of value-added service  
6 providers, said voice response application for being used by a  
7 plurality of users, comprising the steps of:

8           storing a plurality of user-specific speech models  
9           adapted to specific users for use by a common speech  
10           recognition module;

11           identifying a user calling said system;

12           retrieving the user-specific speech model of the

13           identified user from said plurality of models;

14           independently uploading, to said system, said interactive  
15           voice response applications which provide  
16           interactive voice response functionality; through a  
17           second telecommunication network in said voice  
18           portal hosting system, at least a plurality

19        the identified user interacting with one or more of said  
20        interactive voice response applications; and  
21        said one or more of said applications using [[a]] said  
22        retrieved user-specific speech model via said common  
23        speech recognition module for executing on said  
24        hosting system and for recognizing speech of the  
25        identified user. ~~utilizing common user specific~~  
26        ~~speech models associated with said users; and~~  
27        ~~executing one or more of said voice response applications~~  
28        ~~when one of said users calls said system.~~

1        31. (original) The method of claim 30, wherein said  
2        interactive voice response applications use a common user  
3        profile database stored in said voice portal hosting system.

1        32. (original) The method of claim 31, wherein said  
2        interactive voice response applications use user preferences  
3        stored in said common user profile database.

1        33. (original) The method of claim 32, wherein said user  
2        preferences include a delivery address for goods and/or  
3        services ordered with said value-added service providers.

1        34. (original) The method of claim 33, wherein said user  
2        preferences include a billing address and/or preferences for  
3        goods and/or services ordered with said value-added service  
4        providers.

1        35. (original) The method of claim 34, wherein said  
2        common speech recognition module uses common users' speech  
3        models.

1        36. (original) The method of claim 35, wherein said  
2 common speech models associated to a user are adapted during  
3 each dialogue between said users and each of said interactive  
4 voice response applications.

1        37. (original) The method of claim 30, wherein said  
2 common speech recognition module uses common users' language  
3 models.

1        38. (original) The method of claim 37, wherein said  
2 common language models associated to a user are adapted during  
3 each dialogue between said user and each of said interactive  
4 voice response applications.

1        39. (original) The method of claim 30, wherein at least a  
2 plurality of said interactive voice response applications uses  
3 a common user identification module run on said system.

1        40. (original) The method of claim 39, wherein said user  
2 identification module uses an identification of the equipment  
3 used by said user in said first telecommunication network.

1        41. (original) The method of claim 40, wherein said voice  
2 portal hosting system is operated by a telecom operator of  
3 said first telecommunication network, wherein said user  
4 identification module uses an identification of the equipment  
5 used by said user in said first telecommunication network even  
6 when said identification is not available for the other B-  
7 subscribers of said first telecommunication network.



1           42. (original) The method of claim 39, wherein said user  
2 identification module uses a voice-based speaker  
3 identification module.

1           43. (original) The method of claim 39, wherein said  
2 common speech recognition module uses a speaker-dependant  
3 speech recognition algorithm, said user being identified by  
4 said common user identification module.

1           44. (original) The method of claim 30, wherein at least a  
2 plurality of said interactive voice response applications use  
3 a common billing module and a common clearing center for  
4 dispatching the collected amounts to said value-added service  
5 providers.

1           45. (original) The method of claim 44, wherein said  
2 common billing module allows for the billing of transactions  
3 between said users and said value-added service providers on a  
4 common bill prepared by the operator of said voice portal  
5 hosting system.

1           46. (original) The method of claim 44, wherein at least a  
2 plurality of said users have a deposit account on said system  
3 which can be used for transactions with a plurality of said  
4 value-added service providers.

1           47. (original) The method of claim 30, wherein at least a  
2 plurality of said interactive voice response applications use  
3 a user authentication module based on an electronic signature  
4 and/or on biometric parameters of said users.

1        48. (original) The method of claim 30, wherein at least  
2        some of said interactive voice response applications are  
3        described with Voice extensible Markup Language documents.

1        49. (original) The method of claim 48, wherein a  
2        compilation module run on said voice portal hosting system  
3        compiles said interactive voice response applications.

1        50. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ A method for allowing each  
2        of a plurality of independent value-added service providers to  
3        set up an interactive voice response applications each  
4        including an executable component for execution by a voice  
5        portal hosting system commonly used by said plurality of  
6        value-added service providers and which can be used by a  
7        plurality of users, said method comprising the steps of:

8        independently uploading, through a second  
9        telecommunication network, said interactive voice  
10       response applications to said system for providing  
11       ~~which provide~~ interactive voice response  
12       functionality through a second telecommunication  
13       ~~network to said voice portal hosting system,~~  
14       storing a plurality of user-specific speech models  
15       adapted to specific users for use by a common speech  
16       recognition module,

17       identifying a user calling said system,  
18       retrieving the user-specific speech model of the  
19       identified user from said plurality of models,

20       and

21       executing one or more of said voice response applications  
22       in response to the user calling said system, said  
23       executing including interacting with said user via  
24       said common speech module using said retrieved user-

25           specific speech model for recognizing the speech of  
26           the user, wherein  
27       ~~when one of said users calls said system; wherein~~  
28       ~~at least a plurality of said applications use a common~~  
29           ~~speech recognition module for executing by said~~  
30           ~~voice portal hosting system, and wherein~~  
31       ~~said common speech recognition module uses common user~~  
32           ~~specific speech models, and wherein~~  
33       ~~said common speech models are associated to a user and~~  
34           ~~are adapted during each dialogue between said users~~  
35           ~~and any of said interactive voice response~~  
36           ~~applications.~~

1           51. (original) Computer program product directly loadable  
2       into the internal memory of a digital computer, comprising  
3       software code portions for performing the steps of one of the  
4       claims 30 to 50 when said product is run on a server connected  
5       to a first telecommunication network.

1           52. (new) A voice portal hosting system allowing a  
2       plurality of users to establish a connection with said system  
3       using voice equipment for interacting with one or more of a  
4       plurality of service providers, said system comprising:  
5           means for independently uploading a plurality of  
6               interactive voice response applications from said  
7               service provides, to said system, via a  
8               communication channel, each of said voice response  
9               applications for providing interactive voice  
10              response functionality for a corresponding one of  
11              said service providers when executed by said hosting  
12              system;  
13           means for storing said plurality of interactive voice  
14              response applications;

15           a common speech recognition module;  
16           means for storing a plurality of user-specific speech  
17           models adapted to specific users for use by the  
18           common speech recognition module;  
19           a user identification module for identifying a user  
20           calling said system via another communication  
21           channel;  
22           means for retrieving the user-specific speech model of  
23           the identified user from said plurality of models,  
24           wherein  
25           the identified user interacts with one or more of said  
26           interactive voice response applications, and wherein  
27           said one or more interactive voice response applications  
28           utilize said retrieved user-specific speech model  
29           via said common speech recognition module for  
30           recognizing speech of the identified user, and  
31           further wherein  
32           said common speech models are adaptable during dialogue  
33           between said users and any of said interactive voice  
34           response applications.